**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A medical article comprising an implantable substrate having a coating, the coating including a polymer comprising a derivative of carboxylated or hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid), or a block-copolymer having at least one moiety comprising a derivative of carboxylated or hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid), wherein the hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid) has an average molecular weight between about 1,000 and about 20,000 Daltons,

wherein the polymer comprising a derivative of hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid) has two terminal hydroxyl groups, and

wherein the block-copolymer having at least one moiety comprising a derivative of hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid) has two terminal hydroxyl groups.

2. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the medical article is a stent.

3. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein poly(lactic acid) includes poly(D-lactic acid), poly(L-lactic acid), or poly(D,L-lactic acid).

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the block-copolymer includes a diblock-copolymer, a triblock-copolymer, or mixtures thereof.

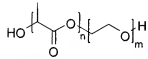
6. (Original) The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the diblock-copolymer and triblock-copolymer include at least one biocompatible moiety.

7. (Original) The medical article of Claim 6, wherein the biocompatible moiety is poly(ethylene glycol).

8. (Original) The medical article of Claim 6, wherein the biocompatible moiety is selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene glycol), poly(tetramethylene glycol), polyethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide), ϵ-caprolactone, ß-butyrolactone, δ-valerolactone, glycolide, poly(N-vinyl pyrrolidone), poly(acrylamide methyl propane sulfonic acid) and salts thereof, poly(styrene sulfonate), sulfonated dextran,

polyphosphazenes, poly(orthoesters), poly(tyrosine carbonate), hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, copolymers of poly(ethylene glycol) with hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, heparin, copolymers of polyethylene glycol with heparin, a graft copolymer of poly(L-lysine) and poly(ethylene glycol).

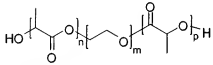
9. (Original) The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the diblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of "n" and "m" is an integer.

10. (Original) The medical article of Claim 9, wherein "n" has a value between about 21 and about 278, and "m" has a value between about 11 and about 682.

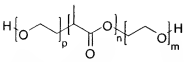
11. (Original) The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of "n," "m," and "p" is an integer.

12. (Original) The medical article of Claim 11, wherein "n" has a value between about 21 and about 278, and "m" has a value between about 11 and about 682, and "p" has a value between a(Original) bout 21 and about 278.

13. (Withdrawn) The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of "n," "m," and "p" is an integer.

14. (Withdrawn) The medical article of Claim 13, wherein "n" has a value between about 21 and about 278, "m" has a value between about 11 and about 682, and "p" has a value between about 11 and about 682.

15. (Previously presented) The medical article of Claim 5, wherein the diblock-copolymers and triblock-copolymers are hydrolyzed block-copolymers of poly(lactic acid) and poly(ethylene glycol),

wherein the diblock copolymer comprises a general formula $-\{[A-]_m-[B]_n\}-_x$, wherein A is a lactic acid moiety and B is a non-lactic acid moiety, and wherein each of "m," "n," and "x" is an independent positive integer, and $m \geq 2$, and $n \geq 2$; and

wherein the triblock copolymer comprises a general formula $-\{[A-]_m-[B]_n\}-[A]_p\}-_x$, wherein A is a lactic acid moiety and B is non-lactic acid moiety, and wherein each of "m," "n," "p," and "x" is an independent positive integer, and $m \geq 2$, and $n \geq 2$, and $p \geq 2$.

16. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the coating further includes a biologically absorbable polymer.

17. (Original) The medical article of Claim 16, wherein the biologically absorbable polymer is selected from a group consisting of poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(hydroxyvalerate), poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate), poly(caprolactone), poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butyleneterephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butylene terephthalate)-block-polyethylene-glycol), poly(butyleneterephthalate)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block poly(butyleneterephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol), poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), and blends thereof.

18. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, additionally comprising a biologically active agent incorporated into the coating.

19. (Currently amended) A method for fabricating a medical article, the method including depositing a coating on at least a portion of an implantable substrate, the coating including a polymer comprising a derivative of carboxylated or hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid), or a block-copolymer having at least one moiety comprising a derivative of carboxylated or hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid), wherein the hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid) has an average molecular weight between about 1,000 and about 20,000 Daltons,

wherein the polymer comprising a derivative of hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid) has two terminal hydroxyl groups, and

wherein the block-copolymer having at least one moiety comprising a derivative of hydrolyzed poly(lactic acid) has two terminal hydroxyl groups.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the medical article is a stent.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein poly(lactic acid) includes poly(D-lactic acid), poly(L-lactic acid), or poly(D,L-lactic acid).

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the block-copolymer includes a diblock-copolymer, a triblock-copolymer, or mixtures thereof.

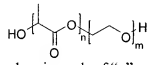
24. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein the diblock-copolymer and triblock-copolymer include at least one biocompatible moiety.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24, wherein the biocompatible moiety is poly(ethylene glycol).

26. (Original) The method of Claim 24, wherein the biocompatible moiety is selected from a group consisting of poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene glycol), poly(tetramethylene glycol), poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide), ϵ-caprolactone, ß-butyrolactone, δ-valerolactone, glycolide, poly(N-vinyl pyrrolidone), poly(acrylamide methyl propane sulfonic acid) and salts thereof, poly(styrene sulfonate), sulfonated dextran, polyphosphazenes,

poly(orthoesters), poly(tyrosine carbonate), hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, copolymers of poly(ethylene glycol) with hyaluronic acid or derivatives thereof, heparin, copolymers of polyethylene glycol with heparin, a graft copolymer of poly(L-lysine) and poly(ethylene glycol).

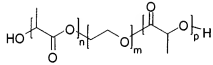
27. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein the diblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of "n" and "m" is an integer.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein "n" has a value between about 21 and about 278, and "m" has a value between about 11 and about 682.

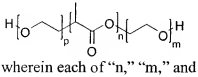
29. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of "n," "m," and "p" is an integer.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein "n" has a value between about 21 and about 278, and "m" has a value between about 11 and about 682, and "p" has a value between about 21 and about 278.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein the triblock-copolymer is a copolymer having a formula



wherein each of "n," "m," and "p" is an integer.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, wherein "n" has a value between about 21 and about 278, "m" has a value between about 11 and about 682, and "p" has a value between about 11 and about 682.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, further including hydrolyzing the diblock-copolymers and triblock-copolymers to obtain hydrolyzed block-copolymers of poly(lactic acid) and poly(ethylene glycol), and incorporating the hydrolyzed block-copolymers of poly(lactic acid) and poly(ethylene glycol) into the coating,

wherein the diblock copolymer comprises a general formula $-\{[A-]_m-[B]_n\}-_x$, wherein A is a lactic acid moiety and B is a non-lactic acid moiety, and where each of "m," "n," and "x" is an independent positive integer, and $m \geq 2$, and $n \geq 2$; and

wherein the triblock copolymer comprises a general formula $-\{[A-]_m-[B]_n\}-[A]_p\}-_x$, wherein A is a lactic acid moiety and B is non-lactic acid moiety, and where each of "m," "n," "p," and "x" is an independent positive integer, and $m \geq 2$, and $n \geq 2$, and $p \geq 2$.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further including incorporating a biologically absorbable polymer.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the biologically absorbable polymer is selected from a group consisting of poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(hydroxyvalerate), poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate), poly(caprolactone), poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly (ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(butyleneterephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly (butylene terephthalate)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol), poly(butyleneterephthalate)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block poly(butyleneterephthalate), poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), polyethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene glycol), poly(caprolactone)-block-poly(ethylene-glycol)-block-poly(caprolactone), and blends thereof

36. (Original) The method of Claim 19, additionally comprising incorporating a biologically active agent into the coating.